AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A method of assessing potential susceptibility to development of ALTE and/or SIDS in a subject including:

(a) determination of the immunoglobulin A (IgA) level in a sample from the subject; and

(b) prediction of susceptibility to development of ALTE and/or SIDS by comparison of said IgA level with a predetermined standard.

21. (previously presented) A method of assessing potential susceptibility to development of ALTE and/or SIDS in a subject including:

(a) determination of immunoglobulin A1 (IgA1) level in a sample from the subject; and

(b) prediction of susceptibility to development of ALTE and/or SIDS by comparison of said IgA1 level with a predetermined standard.

22. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the subject is a human infant.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the sample is a sample from a subject at the time of, or any time up to approximately 2 weeks after, an upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) and/or symptoms.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin is secretory immunoglobulin.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin is salivary immunoglobulin.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the sample is whole unstimulated saliva.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the subject is not fasting when the sample is collected.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin level is determined by ELISA.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin level is determined by radial immunodiffusion.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin level is analysed by a rapid near-subject assay.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin level is determined by contacting a body secretion with an assay device or system on a support.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin level is analysed by contacting an assay device or system with the saliva of the subject *in situ*.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the standard is a normal population standard.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the standard is an internal personal standard.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 further including comparison of the ratio of immunoglobulin level to other indices.

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 further including comparison of the ratio of immunoglobulin level to other indices selected from the group consisting of IgM, IgG, acute phase reactants and other cellular components.

37. (previously presented) A method for assessing potential susceptibility to development of ALTE and/or SIDS in an infant including:

(a) determination of the immunoglobulin A (IgA) and/or immunoglobulin A1 (IgA1) level in a sample of the infant's whole, unstimulated saliva; and

(b) prediction of susceptibility to development of ALTE and/or SIDS by comparison of said IgA and/or said IgA1 level with a predetermined standard.

38. (previously presented) A kit when used in a method according to any one of claims 20, 21 or 37.

--39. (new) A methods of measuring immune function in children comprising:

(a) determination of the immunoglobulin A (IgA) level in a sample from this subject; and

(b) comparison of said IgA level with a predetermined standard.--